

step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of an agent chosen from the list consisting of:

- a. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
- b. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1-55 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
- c. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157-250 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
- d. an antibody that binds specifically to SEQ ID NO:2 or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
- e. an antibody that binds specifically to an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID NO:2 or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
- f. an antibody that blocks binding of said APRIL ligand polypeptide to an APRIL receptor polypeptide; and
- g. an antibody that binds specifically to said APRIL ligand polypeptide and blocks binding of said APRIL ligand polypeptide to an APRIL receptor polypeptide.

42. A method of suppressing growth of a tumor cell that expresses an APRIL receptor polypeptide, comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of an agent chosen from the list consisting of:

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- a. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising at least about 102 amino acids or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
 - b. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 1-55 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
 - c. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence found in amino acids 157-250 of SEQ ID NO:2, a fragment thereof, or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
 - d. an antibody that binds specifically to SEQ ID NO:2 or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
 - e. an antibody that binds specifically to an amino acid substitution analog of SEQ ID NO:2 or a soluble ligand polypeptide thereof;
 - f. an antibody that blocks binding of an APRIL ligand polypeptide to said APRIL receptor polypeptide; and
 - g. an antibody that binds specifically to an APRIL ligand polypeptide and blocks binding of said APRIL ligand polypeptide to said APRIL receptor polypeptide.

REMARKS

THE RESTRICTIONS

The Examiner has required a restriction of the claims of this application under 35 U.S.C. § 121 into one of the following nine groups: